

In accordance with Dr Forde's expressed wishes, the resources of the Daryll Forde Memorial Fund, established a few years ago, are to be made available to the Publications Committee of the Institute to strengthen its book publishing programme.

#### INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN SEMINAR ON THE PROFESSIONALISATION OF AFRICAN MEDICINE

The Institute was delighted to be able to hold the first of its new seminars at the University of Botswana, Gaborone, 19–24 September 1983, for the first time in conjunction with the annual meeting of its Executive Council. The seminar was the first international meeting held at the University since it became formally independent and the Vice-Chancellor expressed his particular pleasure that the University had had the opportunity to welcome such a distinguished gathering. A number of seminar participants as well as Executive Council members of the Institute gave lectures and met with students at the University during our presence in Gaborone.

The seminar was opened and made welcome by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Vice-Chancellor, and the Director of the National Institute of Development Research and Documentation. Some forty-seven people from seventeen countries, twelve of which were African, attended the seminar.

The papers are being revised for publication under the editorship of Dr Last and Professor Chavunduka, and it is hoped to publish them in our usual IAI seminar format.

The Institute should like to express its particular thanks and gratitude for the support it has received enabling it to hold this meeting, from the Swedish Agency for Research in Developing Countries; Voluntary and Christian Service; the World Health Organisation; the Commonwealth Foundation; and of course the University of Botswana, its Vice-Chancellor and staff.

#### HOUSING THE URBAN POOR IN AFRICA

The International African Institute is presently undertaking a study on Housing the Urban Poor in Africa to provide the background paper to a proposed International African Seminar on this topic to be held in spring 1985, probably in Tunis, under the direction of Professor Peter Lloyd of Sussex University. This initial work is funded by the Social Science Research Council, London, and is being carried out by Dr Phillip Amis who has recently completed his thesis on the commercialisation of unauthorized housing in Nairobi.

The major object of this study is to give an overview and explain the variations in housing provision and tenure and approaches to 'unauthorized' settlements throughout Africa. In particular we are interested in monitoring and evaluating the changes in housing provision and responses to 'unauthorized' settlements within the last twenty years with a view to possible policy alternatives. These changes might include the following: attitudes to rural–urban migration; the emergence of the private rental sector in unauthorized settlements; the nature of access to land by the urban poor, i.e. market or invasion; the legal position of unauthorized areas; the possibility of

the urban poor participating in solving their own housing needs; the evolving mechanisms of social control; the introduction of site and service and squatter upgrading schemes; the impact of the international aid agencies.

It is hoped that such a study will firstly synthesize existing research on housing for the urban poor in Africa and suggest new avenues for research; and secondly, be of relevance in terms of policy formation and advance our understanding of post-colonial African society.

#### INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AFRICAN STUDIES

*F. Abiola Irele, Secretary-General of ICAS, writes:* It is notified for general information that the Fifth Congress due to be held in Lagos in December 1983 has had to be postponed. This has been considered advisable in view of the General Elections in Nigeria spread over the months of August and September 1983 and leaving not enough time to make adequate preparations for the Congress. This is in addition to the current economic depression in our several countries and at the international level making it difficult for ICAS to obtain the considerable subsidies required for a meeting of this scale from governments and organisations.

The Congress has now been rescheduled for December 1984 when the more severe effects of the current depression are expected to have subsided. In this connection, the President of ICAS, Professor Ade Ajayi, is continuing his efforts to raise the necessary funds. A meeting of the International Bureau will be held early in 1984 to make the final arrangements for the Congress.

In the meantime, the following details of arrangements originally planned for the Congress are being communicated for the information of participants.

***Congress date and venue.*** The dates originally decided upon for the Congress are 13–19 December. These dates are likely to be maintained for 1984, with arrivals on the 11th and 12th and departures as from the 20th. It is hoped that this schedule will enable delegates to return to their respective countries in time for Christmas and end of year festivities. Lagos remains the venue of the Congress.

***Themes and sections.*** As previously announced, the overall theme is 'African Education and Identity'. The aim is to examine the contributions of African Studies to the understanding of the African condition, with particular focus on the context and processes of the transmission of culture in its widest connotation.

The Congress will meet in plenary and in six sections. In order to give greater emphasis to the interdisciplinary character of the Congress, the themes of the different sections will be as follows: (1) Educational Process in Africa, (2) Value Systems and Culture in Africa, (3) Socio-economic and Political Process in Africa, (4) Science and Technology in Africa, (5) Language and Communication in Africa, (6) Ecology and Society in Africa. A series of round tables will also be organized during the Congress to enable specialists within disciplines to meet for academic discussions and to carry out business related to their disciplines.

***Opening address, keynote address and symposium.*** It is planned to invite a noted personality of the black world to deliver the opening address. Two keynote addresses are also planned. A symposium on the overall theme 'Education and Identity' with the participation of about four eminent African scholars, will also form part of the programme.